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Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story by Kevin Maillard is a heartwarming picture book that celebrates the cultural significance of fry bread. The story weaves together the author's family recipe, traditions, and experiences to create a unifying force that brings people together across tribes. The book explores various aspects of fry bread, from its role as food to its connection with art, culture, and community. Although it's not a traditional narrative, Maillard uses his own family story to ground the book in reality, including a treasured family recipe. Readers praised the artwork, finding it colorful and engaging, with likable characters that add to the story's warmth. The descriptions are lively and evocative, making readers crave the taste of fry bread. The book encourages exploration of different recipes and interpretations of fry bread, highlighting its universal appeal. Overall, Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story is a sweet and relatable tale that celebrates the power of food to unite people across cultures and traditions. I'm eager to try this recipe! [He means, Dad, please cook it.] My rating: 3.5-4. I enjoyed it, but maybe that's because I was hungry. The appendix explains each word connected to fry bread, and I appreciate the family recipe with Mom's image. Recipes from diverse groups share moments of joy on various occasions. Personal note: My mom made something similar to Dutch doughnuts or Oliebollen, fried doughballs with raisins and cinnamon. I've heard great things about "Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story" by Kevin Noble Maillard and illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal. When the book arrived at my local library, I grabbed it quickly. There are many things to love about this book. The illustrator shows diversity among Native nations through a range of skin, hair, and eye colors. The author recognizes the different ways people make fry bread, including a recipe for "Kevin's Fry Bread" in the back. I also appreciate how the illustrator includes names of different tribes on the inside covers for both the front and back. This is a beautiful picture book that has won many awards! However, this book isn't what I expected. Instead of a simple story about fry bread, it's an introduction to the author's note, making it a wordy non-fiction title that might not be suitable for storytime. It's also extremely Americocentric, even though it briefly acknowledges Canada has native peoples too. For what it is, it's decent. The information is interesting, and the pictures are pleasant. But I'm not a fan of how the book is laid out. It makes for a long and heavy reading session. You'll probably be flipping back and forth between the story and author's note. Overall, this is an okay book if you're looking for something specific. For young readers learning about Native American traditions and history in the United States, this book offers a beautifully illustrated tale of family and togetherness. As it celebrates the making of fry bread, an Indigenous staple, the story is aimed at very young children but also contains interesting information for adults, including a recipe, historical context, and insights into native arts like doll making and basket weaving. However, readers seeking a comprehensive exploration of Indigenous North American cultures may find this book lacking. The book also includes a section on the history of abuse by the U.S. Government, which is both shocking and revealing. Thankfully, Native Peoples are resilient and strong, embracing community and culture even in the face of opposition. As the author notes, bread is meant to be shared and loved with others, as it nourishes and comforts. The book concludes that bread- is- family and bread-is-love. Note: I paraphrased the text without translating it from the original language. The jacket case reveals a heartwarming scene of Martinez Neal's fuller-faced characters, where an older woman is holding a small baby who's nibbling on what looks like fry bread. This image suggests a deep connection between generations, as the woman shares tradition through food. The case further emphasizes this idea with multi-colored hands reaching forward towards finished fry bread. The endpapers showcase the names of various First Nations from and before America, highlighting those that are still recognized today. This moment can be seen as entering a liminal space between past and present, setting the stage for the story in Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story. Noble Maillard's text begins with a sense of rhythm, using the art of making and baking fry bread to create a captivating effect. The reader is introduced to the importance of food as tradition passed down through generations, which may be especially significant for younger readers. Through expert word choice in "Fry Bread is Sound," Maillard presents a sensory experience that makes the food feel real and warm. The back matter of the book further emphasizes this idea, showing a patriarch handling the skillet with tribal patterns on his wrist. This continues to highlight the significance of tradition and shared experiences in creating fry bread. The colorful children in this spread are fully immersed in the sensory experience, their eyes closed as they take in the aromas wafting from the stove. This image contrasts with my initial findings on First Nations-centered storytelling, where I often saw individuals presented with eyes open and engaged in a suggested dream state. Here, it's the white child who is taking in the smells with eyes closed. The story continues to flow, exploring how fry bread becomes a backdrop for illustration and an integral part of those consuming it. The book showcases a formulaic approach to exploring subjects, listing various aspects and meanings associated with them. This format allows readers to gain a deeper understanding of the subject matter. "Fry Bread is Time" introduces a new character, the mother, with tattoos running up her arm and onto her shoulders. She's braided hair and cradles a small child, revealing that the older child from the cover is actually another family member. The story takes a turn, shifting from the kitchen to fry bread as an art form. The children observe and participate in traditional art forms centered on fry bread, such as basket weaving and doll making. This transition seems designed to make readers feel included in the making, baking, and eating of fry bread before advancing into the book's back matter. "Fry Bread is History" presents elders who are depicted as though they are sharing stories about the importance of fry bread in their culture. The story is passed down from generation to generation, as an elder shares tales with their children about the struggles and triumphs of their ancestors. "Fry Bread is a Place," the first book in this series, sets the stage for the family's journey through history, tradition, and culture. The author's approach to storytelling is multigenerational, weaving together the past with the present. The inclusion of suggested drawings created by the woman's words creates a sense of wonder and connection among the listeners. This storytelling method highlights the importance of sharing stories and experiences across generations. The book features colorful artwork throughout, emphasizing the significance of celebrating hundreds of tribes in children's literature. As the story progresses through "Fry Bread is Us," characters come together, including those who may not be part of their immediate family but are still connected to them in some way. This emphasis on inclusivity emphasizes that everyone has a place at the table and encourages readers to share their own experiences. Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story is a heartwarming tribute to indigenous culture and traditional foods. I've had the chance to read it ahead of its October release, and while it didn't quite hit all the right notes for me, others seem to adore it! The story follows Kevin Noble Maillard's ode to fry bread, showcasing its significance in Native American families and communities. Maillard's simple yet poetic text is beautifully paired with vibrant artwork by Juana Martinez-Neal. What I found particularly impressive was the detailed seven-page afterword, which delves into the history of fry bread and features culturally significant objects used in the illustrations. Even the endpapers are a treasure trove of knowledge, listing Native nations and peoples across the United States. While my emotional connection to the story itself wasn't as strong as I had hoped, others have found it to be a true standout. Reactions vary, but most reviewers agree that this is an excellent choice for anyone looking for picture-books about food, family, or Native American cultures specifically. Juana Martinez-Neal’s illustrations are charming, packed with details, and showcase a range of modern Native Americans from the United States. The book focuses on the tribes within what is now the US, so readers seeking information on Canada’s First Nations might not find it here. While I applaud the representation of various Native American groups, I docked a star because I feel there's a disconnect between the picture book text and the lengthy afterward section. The latter goes beyond the comprehension level of young children and early elementary students. The text itself lacks vivid descriptions, which may make it challenging for children unfamiliar with the subject to connect with. For example, "Fry Bread is History" seems poignant to those aware of the Trail of Tears, but I'm unsure most Pre-K or early elementary students will grasp its significance. Similarly, "Fry Bread is Flavor" showcases diverse traditions intertwined with Native American customs, but its abstract nature might not resonate with young readers. The main text introduces fry bread as "Food: Flour, salt water / Cornmeal, baking powder / Perhaps milk, maybe sugar / All mixed together in a bowl." This could lead readers to believe cornmeal is the primary ingredient. However, the author clarifies that there's no single "right" way to make fry bread, and each family has its unique recipe. I still highly recommend this book, urging you to set aside time for the Author’s Note, which is beautifully written and educational. The emphasis on modern Native Americans is impressive, and I was fascinated by the politics surrounding tribal recognition and appreciation of the end papers listing the names of the 573 federally recognized tribes. Rancheria near my hometown in California has a message for the US: Native nations exist and demand recognition. We're not a relic of the past but living, breathing communities. Meanwhile, "Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story" is a picture book that celebrates fry bread as more than just food - it's culture, history, and family. Kevin Noble Maillard's poem explores how indigenous peoples are both alike and different, using fry bread as a way to share their experiences. The accompanying illustrations by Juana Martinez-Neal are beautiful, capturing love, joy, and energy. However, the book also confronts the harsh realities of colonization and its impact on native peoples. Maillard's own recipe for fry bread is included, along with educational pages about historical and cultural context. This adds depth to the story, making it more than just a simple tale. For some readers, like myself, this aspect resonated strongly - I felt it made the book more impactful. The Read Harder Challenge 2020 encouraged me to read a picture book from a marginalized community, which led me to "Fry Bread." While it's well-loved and praised by many, my connection was stronger with another book. The illustrations might not be everyone's cup of tea, as I personally felt they could have been more nuanced in their representation. Despite this, the book shines for its portrayal of Native American culture, something that many readers may not be familiar with. A powerful moment comes when it mentions "The long walk, the stolen land..." - a reminder of the complexities and challenges faced by these communities. Overall, while I didn't give it 5 stars due to personal preferences, "Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story" is a significant contribution to understanding indigenous culture and history. Children reading picture books should enjoy this book, but it seems like adults will love it more. The author's note is informative, but most kids don't read picture books to learn from notes. This book is important, and it's great that it was published. But I didn't love it as much as others did. This wonderful book celebrates fry bread and Native American life. It takes you through a family enjoying fry bread, and the illustrations show a diverse group of family members sharing a meal. The back matter provides more information about the book, including notable features in the illustrations and background information about Native Americans. This could be read by older kids, teachers, and adults. The end papers list the names of Native nations, both federally recognized and those that are not. I don't have enough heart eyes for this book; it's excellent! The Navajo people are believed to have invented fry bread over 150 years ago, possibly as a result of food deprivation caused by government restrictions. This traditional Native American dish has become a staple in many communities, with each tribe claiming to have the best recipe. A recently published book celebrates the rich diversity of North America's Native American tribes, featuring 573 federally recognized and 67 state-recognized tribes in the United States alone, along with an impressive 600 tribes in Canada. The book's author and illustrator have included a wealth of information within its pages, making it a true celebration of Native American life through vibrant artwork. While the book is a testament to the authors' research and love for their subject matter, some may find it too much for young children to fully grasp. However, the detailed descriptions and colorful illustrations make it a standout choice for various awards, including the Caldecott Award. The book's back matter offers valuable insights into the significance of each illustration, demonstrating the author's dedication to accurately representing Native American culture and traditions. The artwork itself is breathtaking, blending acrylics, colored pencils, and graphite on textured paper to create a truly immersive experience. Each time the reader revisits the book, they are likely to discover something new. The illustrator, Juana Martinez-Neal, deserves special mention for her stunning work, which not only supports but also extends the text. Her attention to detail and love for her subject matter shine through in every illustration. This book is highly recommended for all ages, making it an excellent addition to school libraries and a perfect choice for storytime settings. Its powerful message and beautiful artwork ensure that it will be cherished by readers of all backgrounds. Fry Bread: A Delicious Journey Through Tradition and Culture As a highly anticipated read-aloud, Fry Bread tells the story of Native American tradition and the joy of good food made with love. The book's beautiful research and stunning illustrations by Juana Martinez-Neal make it a standout. This delightful tale follows a plump grandmother as she makes flatbread for a multicultural group of children, making mouths water everywhere. A Really Good Reading Nook features a lovely video about the book, showcasing its unique qualities. Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story starts with its end papers, featuring a gorgeously printed list of Native American tribes, including those without official recognition from the US government. The story seamlessly flows like Maillard's personal family tale, defining fry bread as people, sound, time, art, and nation. The book comes complete with Kevin Noble Maillard's "Kevin's Fry Bread" recipe and an "Author's Note" that explains the significance of the story and its sections, each beginning with "FRY BREAD IS..." These poetic-like sections are beautifully illustrated and perfect for learning about traditional Native American art and culture. Having experienced fry bread at local festivals, readers can now try making it using Maillard's recipe, which might just become a new favorite baking project despite the yeast-requiring aspect. The history of bread-making is universal, yet distinct to each culture. It's a testament to our shared ancestry and the creative ways we sustain ourselves. However, the story of fry bread in Native American families holds a deeper significance, tied to their heritage and resilience. A picture book celebrates this iconic food, not just as a culinary delight but also as a symbol of family and community. A diverse group of Natives come together to make fry bread, involving children of all ages in its preparation and enjoyment. The dish's taste and texture vary depending on the recipe and cooking method, but its impact is always the same: bringing people closer together. This book looks beyond the culinary aspects, delving into the historical context and the devastating impact of European invasion on Native American communities. It's a story of survival and resilience, where fry bread serves as a symbol of hope and connection to their ancestors. The illustrations are warm and inviting, showcasing a diverse group of family members gathered around the food they love. This picture book is a celebration of Native American culture, history, and resilience. It's a reminder that even in the face of adversity, families come together to share moments of joy and unity. The inclusion of diverse characters adds richness to the narrative, making it an important resource for children aged 3-6. Older readers can also appreciate the book's depth and information, finding themselves lost in its pages. The book's writing is beautiful, its illustrations stunning, and its back matter packed with insightful information. It's a masterpiece of children's non-fiction writing, deserving every accolade it has received. This picture book is more than just a story; it's a love letter to the Native American community and their rich cultural heritage. Upcoming picture book by Kevin Noble Maillard (Enrolled Seminole Nation Okla.) & illustrator Juana Martinez Neal is a beautifully written story told through both words & illustrations! The book provides valuable historical context & back matter that's perfect for every classroom and library. A must-read, it should get more attention! The story follows a modern Native American family, making it relatable & engaging. Kevin Noble Maillard's first picture book is stunning, with the best illustrations ever created by Juana Martinez-Neal. It's a true contender for Caldecott 2020! The book explores families, customs, and what fry bread means, without defining it strictly. You get the emotional meaning of fry bread through its variations & recipes. Warm & enticing illustrations showcase great diversity. Don't miss the extensive afterword providing substantial information about Native Americans!